

REMARKS

The following Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of 6/17/04 and the personal interview with Examiner Naum Levin and Primary Examiner A.M. Thompson on 8/12/04. In the Office Action of 6/17/04, claims 1, 6, 31, and 44 were objected to and claims 1-19, 27-36, and 44-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 6,023,566 issued to Belkhale et al. (Belkhale) in view of USP 5,696,694 issued to Khouja et al. (Khouja). Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that claims 20-26 and 37-43 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

This Amendment contains amendments to the claims discussed in the interview of 8/12/04. In particular, independent claims 1, 6, and 31 have been amended to include the "at least three output Boolean functions" limitation. Also, new independent claim 47 has been added and includes most limitations of claim 6, 16, and 20. New claims 48-51 have also been added and are dependent on claim 47. Claims 2, 3, and 44-46 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-43, and 47-51 remain pending after entry of this Amendment. This Amendment also contains amendments to the specification to remove embedded hyperlinks.

I. Interview with the Examiner / Statement of Substance of the Interview

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the personal interview on August 12, 2004. The Applicants' representative discussed claims 1, 6, 16, 20, and 31 with the Examiner. Furthermore, the Applicants' representative discussed Khouja with the Examiner.

II. Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to remove any hyperlinks and/or other form of browser-executable code from the specification.

III. Claims Objections

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In the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 31, and 44 were objected to for the recitation of "output functions." This has been amended to "output Boolean functions" in claims 1, 6, and 31. Claim 44 has been canceled.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

5 In the Office Action, claims 1-19, 27-36, and 44-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Belkhale in view of Khouja. Independent claims 1, 6, and 31 have been amended to include the "at least three output Boolean functions" limitation. Applicants submit that neither Belkhale nor Khouja, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the "at least three output Boolean functions" limitation. As such, independent claims 1, 6, and 31
10 are in allowable form. Claims 4 and 5 are dependent on claim 1, claims 7-30 are dependent on claim 6, and claims 32-43 are dependent on claim 31, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 6, and 31. Claims 2, 3, and 44-46 have been canceled making rejection of these claims moot.

V. New Claims 47-51

15 New claims 47-51 have also been added. New independent claim 47 recites a method for producing a circuit description of a design, the method comprising:

- a) from the design, selecting a candidate sub-network that performs a plurality of output functions;
- b) generating a parameter based on the output functions, the parameter
20 comprising a set of indices including an index for each output function performed by the candidate sub-network, wherein generating the parameter comprises:
 - identifying one of the output functions of the candidate sub-network as a first function; and

using the first function to specify an index for each output function of the candidate sub-network;

c) using the parameter to retrieve a replacement sub-network from a storage structure that stores replacement sub-networks; and

5 d) replacing the selected candidate sub-network with the replacement sub-network in the design.

New independent claim 47 includes most limitations of claim 6, 16, and 20. Applicants submit that neither Belkhale nor Khouja, alone or in combination, teach or suggest each limitation of new claim 47. As such, Applicants submit that new claim 47 is in allowable form.

10 New claims 48-51 are dependent upon claim 47, and thus are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 47.

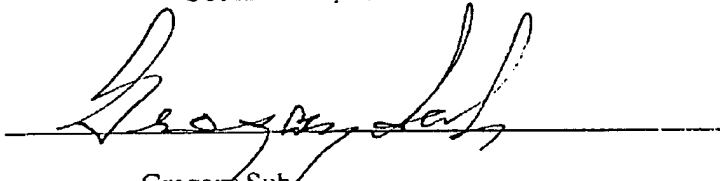
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 1, 4-43, and 47-51, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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